October 19, 1956

BUSINESS STATISTICS

A WEEKLY SUPPLEMENT TO THE SURVEY OF CURRENT BUSINESS

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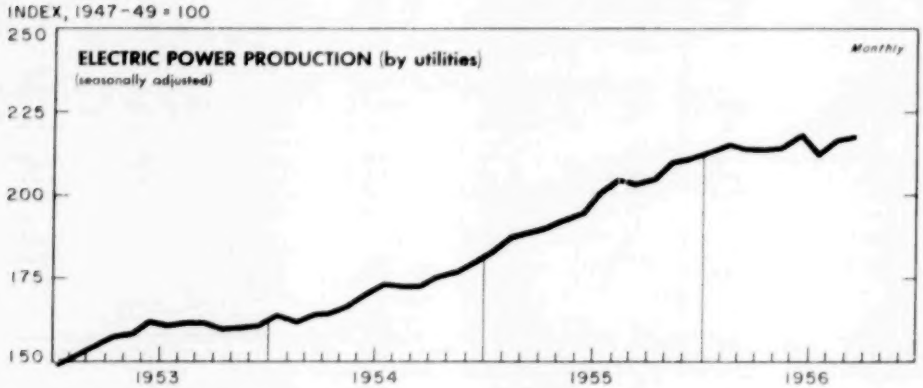
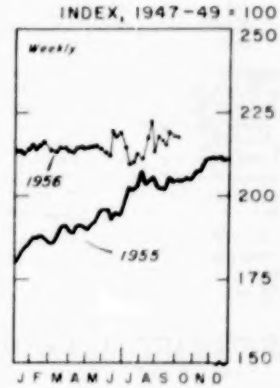
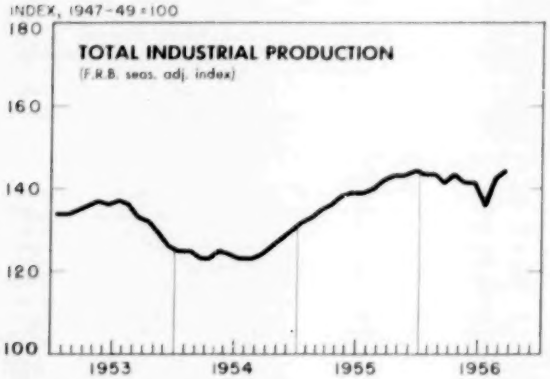
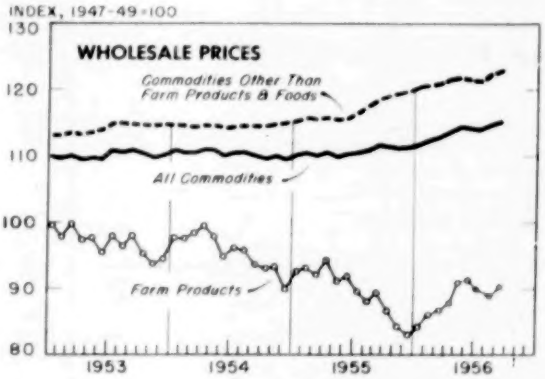
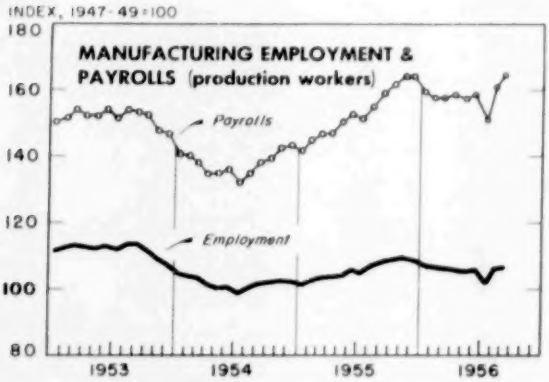
SELECTED BUSINESS INDICATORS

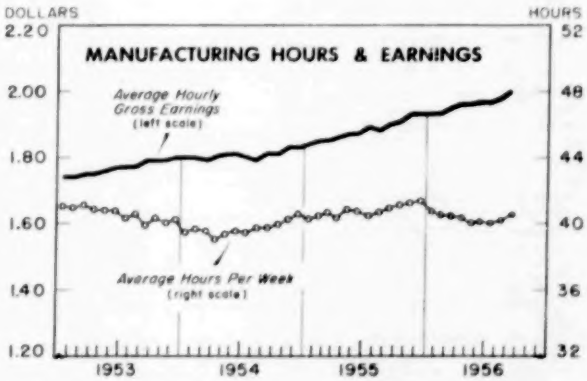












WEEKLY BUSINESS STATISTICS[1]

ITEM	1955		1956			
	Oct. 8	Oct. 15	Sept. 22	Sept. 29	Oct. 6	Oct. 13
Commodity prices, wholesale:						
All commodities.....1947-49=100..	.....	*111.6	.....	.....	115.2	115.0
Farm products.....do....	.....	*86.6	.....	.....	88.9	88.0
Foods, processed.....do....	.....	*100.2	.....	.....	104.1	103.3
All other.....do....	.....	*119.0	.....	.....	122.9	123.0
22 commodities 2/.....do....	89.7	89.5	91.9	91.8	91.1	90.6
Department store sales.....do....	125	128	131	130	127	.....
Insured unemployment, total.....thous..	863	870	1,013	980	.....	.....
State programs.....do....	784	789	930	901	.....	.....
Finance:						
Currency in circulation 3/.....mil. of dol..	30,428	30,552	30,810	30,714	30,767	30,880
Federal Reserve bank credit outstanding, total 3/....do....	25,525	25,714	25,852	25,694	25,593	25,707
Member bank reserve balances 3/.....do....	18,700	18,728	19,220	18,981	18,935	18,929
Excess reserves, estimated 3/.....do....	511	553	735	542	517	634
Federal Reserve reporting member banks in leading cities:4/						
Demand deposits, adjusted.....mil. of dol..	55,860	55,618	55,908	55,374	54,915	.....
Time deposits, except U. S. Government.....do....	21,672	21,710	22,009	22,026	22,040	.....
Loans and investments (adjusted), total.....do....	84,616	86,102	85,843	85,677	85,655	.....
U. S. Government obligations.....do....	30,282	30,282	26,383	26,096	25,979	.....
Commercial, industrial, and agr. loans (gross)...do....	25,010	25,114	29,694	29,724	29,849	.....
Real-estate loans (gross).....do....	7,972	7,972	8,798	8,810	8,794	.....
Failures, industrial and commercial.....number..	207	203	262	251	253	259
Bond yields, domestic corporate (Moody's) 3/.....percent..	3.30	3.30	3.76	3.78	3.79	3.80
Stock prices, 480 stocks (Stand.& Poor's) 4/..1935-39=100..	311.1	301.2	339.7	335.0	337.1	339.7
Industrials, 420 stocks.....do....	356.2	343.8	396.5	390.9	393.9	397.6
Production:						
Bituminous coal 3/.....thous. of short tons..	1,641	1,635	1,683	1,752	1,735	.....
Electric power, by utilities.....mil. of kw.-hr..	10,639	10,599	11,482	11,365	11,342	.....
Passenger cars and trucks (Ward's).....number..	95,893	126,166	49,822	56,685	79,277	93,034
Petroleum (crude) and condensate 3/.....thous. of bbl..	6,690	6,714	7,063	7,044	7,022	.....
Steel 5/.....thous. of short tons..	2,334	2,330	2,477	2,502	2,506	2,483
Percent of capacity 5/.....	#96.7	#96.5	100.6	101.6	101.8	100.9
Freight carloadings, total 6/.....thous. of cars..	801	827	822	831	815	.....
Miscellaneous.....do....	391	409	397	403	391	.....

1/ Data do not always cover calendar weeks. 2/ Tuesday prices. 3/ Daily average. 4/ Wednesday data. 5/ Week beginning October 15, 1956: Production, 2,504 thous. short tons; operating rate, 101.7 percent. 6/ Data for 1956 adjusted to revised classification of class I railroads. * Monthly index for October 1955. # Not comparable with 1956 rates which are based on higher capacity.

MONTHLY BUSINESS STATISTICS

ITEM	1955		1956			
	August	September	June	July	August	September
GENERAL BUSINESS INDICATORS						
Industrial production (FRB):						
Unadjusted, combined index.....1947-49=100..	139	142	141	128	r142	p145
Manufactures.....do....	140	144	142	129	r143	p146
Durable manufactures.....do....	153	157	156	r139	155	p161
Primary metals.....do....	132	143	140	r62	r118	p148
Metal fabricating (including ordnance).....do....	162	165	166	r160	168	p169
Fabricated metal products.....do....	139	142	132	r124	r135	p137
Machinery.....do....	153	161	165	r157	r168	p176
Transportation equipment.....do....	192	185	189	187	r188	p177
Instruments and related products.....do....	150	155	164	162	r167	p171
Furniture and fixtures.....do....	123	127	118	115	r122	p126
Lumber and products.....do....	133	136	129	116	r135	p136
Stone, clay, and glass products.....do....	158	158	163	156	r164	p164
Miscellaneous manufactures.....do....	142	149	141	135	r145	p150
Nondurable manufactures.....do....	128	130	127	r119	r131	p132
Printing and publishing.....do....	123	131	130	125	128	.....
Petroleum and coal products.....do....	138	136	142	r132	r143	p143
Minerals.....do....	124	126	131	119	130	p132
Coal.....do....	82	83	84	62	87	p91
Crude oil and natural gas.....do....	141	142	148	r149	r150	p149
Adjusted, combined index.....do....	140	142	141	136	r142	p144
Manufactures.....do....	142	144	143	137	143	p146
Durable manufactures.....do....	158	160	157	r147	159	p163
Primary metals.....do....	139	146	139	r68	r124	p151
Metal fabricating (including ordnance).....do....	168	170	168	r169	r173	p174
Fabricated metal products.....do....	137	141	132	r129	r133	p136
Machinery.....do....	159	161	168	172	r175	p176
Transportation equipment.....do....	203	205	190	190	r195	p194
Instruments and related products.....do....	153	155	164	167	r171	p171
Furniture and fixtures.....do....	124	125	123	r124	r124	p125
Lumber and products.....do....	127	127	123	r125	r128	p128
Stone, clay, and glass products.....do....	155	155	161	160	r161	p160
Miscellaneous manufactures.....do....	145	145	145	145	r148	p146

r/ Revised. p/ Preliminary.

ITEM	1956 August	1956 September	1956 June	1956 July	1956 August	1956 September
GENERAL BUSINESS INDICATORS - Continued						
Industrial production, adjusted index (FRB) - Continued						
Manufactures - Continued						
Nondurable manufactures.....1947-49=100..	125	128	128	127	r128	p129
Printing and publishing.....do....	128	130	132	133	134	.....
Petroleum and coal products.....do....	135	135	142	r132	r140	p142
Minerals.....do....	121	123	130	122	128	p129
Coal.....do....	82	80	90	77	87	p87
Crude oil and natural gas.....do....	141	141	148	r149	r150	p149
COMMODITY PRICES						
Wholesale price index, all commodities.....1947-49=100..	110.9	111.7	114.2	114.0	r114.7	115.3
Economic sector:						
Crude materials for further processing.....do....	93.8	94.9	95.7	95.0	96.4	96.7
Intermediate materials, supplies, and components...do....	117.6	118.6	121.7	121.3	r122.6	122.9
Finished goods 1/.....do....	110.9	111.5	114.0	114.0	114.1	115.2
Farm products.....do....	88.1	89.3	91.2	90.0	89.1	90.2
Fruits and vegetables, fresh and dried.....do....	99.5	102.1	120.2	111.8	94.8	95.3
Grains.....do....	78.6	81.4	86.9	88.4	88.8	90.7
Livestock and live poultry.....do....	75.5	75.5	74.8	72.9	r76.0	75.7
Foods, processed.....do....	101.9	101.5	102.3	102.2	102.6	104.0
Cereal and bakery products.....do....	115.1	114.4	115.3	114.8	r114.5	114.7
Dairy products and ice cream.....do....	107.8	104.3	108.0	107.9	r108.9	109.6
Fruits and vegetables, canned and frozen.....do....	105.0	106.8	109.7	109.3	r107.3	106.6
Meats, poultry, and fish.....do....	86.3	87.5	83.1	83.7	85.1	89.3
Commodities other than farm products and foods.....do....	117.5	118.5	121.5	121.4	r122.5	122.9
Chemicals and allied products.....do....	105.9	106.0	107.1	107.3	107.3	107.1
Chemicals, industrial.....do....	118.1	118.2	121.1	122.1	122.1	121.9
Fuel, power, and lighting materials.....do....	107.2	108.0	110.5	110.7	r110.9	111.0
Petroleum and products.....do....	113.0	114.0	118.3	118.8	118.3	118.4
Furniture, other household durables.....do....	116.0	116.4	118.1	118.3	119.1	119.7
Appliances, household.....do....	106.6	106.2	105.1	104.4	105.0	105.5
Hides, skins, and leather products.....do....	93.8	94.0	100.2	100.1	100.0	100.2
Lumber and wood products.....do....	125.1	125.7	127.3	126.6	r125.2	124.1
Lumber.....do....	126.4	127.1	129.6	128.5	r127.1	125.8
Machinery and motive products.....do....	128.5	130.0	136.8	136.9	137.7	139.1
Electrical machinery and equipment.....do....	127.7	130.6	137.6	137.4	r138.0	140.3
Motor vehicles.....do....	122.0	122.0	129.1	r129.1	r129.1	129.4
Metals and metal products.....do....	139.5	141.9	145.8	144.9	r150.2	151.3
Iron and steel.....do....	144.9	145.0	149.5	149.9	r159.4	160.7
Nonmetallic minerals, structural.....do....	126.1	126.4	128.9	130.6	130.8	131.1
Pulp, paper, and allied products.....do....	119.7	120.5	127.4	127.7	127.9	127.8
Paper.....do....	130.5	131.0	137.0	138.2	138.2	138.7
Rubber and products.....do....	148.7	151.7	142.8	143.3	r146.9	145.5
Textile products and apparel.....do....	95.3	95.4	94.9	94.9	94.8	94.8
Apparel.....do....	98.6	98.6	99.7	99.8	99.7	99.7
Tobacco manufactures and bottled beverages.....do....	121.7	121.7	121.6	121.7	r122.5	122.8
CONSTRUCTION AND REAL ESTATE						
New permanent nonfarm dwelling units started:						
Unadjusted: Total, privately and publicly owned..thousands..	124.7	114.9	r107.4	101.0	101.0	93.0
Privately owned, total.....do....	122.3	113.6	r104.6	99.1	100.5	89.9
In metropolitan areas.....do....	89.2	82.2	r72.8	70.0	69.0	60.8
Publicly owned.....do....	2.4	1.3	r2.8	1.9	.5	3.1
Seasonally adjusted at annual rate:						
Privately owned, total.....do....	1,346.0	1,262.0	r1,091.0	1,070.0	1,110.0	1,000.0
DOMESTIC TRADE						
All retail stores:						
Estimated sales (unadjusted), total 2/.....mil. of dol..	15,622	15,905	16,724	15,526	r16,335	15,658
Durable-goods stores:						
Automotive group.....do....	3,435	3,367	3,363	3,066	r3,110	2,659
Furniture and appliance group.....do....	854	822	921	846	r900	859
Nondurable-goods stores:						
Apparel group.....do....	740	910	989	768	r863	1,006
Drug and proprietary stores.....do....	432	425	477	464	r475	462
Eating and drinking places.....do....	1,282	1,220	1,270	1,306	r1,333	1,256
Food group.....do....	3,617	3,766	3,980	3,772	r3,988	3,910
Gasoline service stations.....do....	1,108	1,049	1,201	1,239	r1,253	1,202
General-merchandise group.....do....	1,562	1,674	1,700	1,414	r1,663	1,693
Estimated inventories:						
Unadjusted, total.....do....	23,080	23,300	23,510	r23,300	23,540	.....
Durable-goods stores.....do....	10,760	10,390	10,860	r10,650	10,400	.....
Nondurable-goods stores.....do....	12,320	12,910	12,650	r12,650	13,140	.....
Adjusted, total.....do....	23,350	23,230	23,830	23,800	23,760	.....
Durable-goods stores.....do....	10,850	10,720	10,750	10,650	10,470	.....
Nondurable-goods stores.....do....	12,500	12,510	13,080	13,150	13,290	.....
Firms with 11 or more stores, estimated sales:						
Unadjusted.....do....	2,713	2,896	3,167	2,770	3,052	.....
Adjusted.....do....	2,836	2,875	2,999	3,019	3,185	.....
Wholesale trade:						
Sales, estimated (unadjusted), total.....do....	10,540	10,730	10,500	r10,060	11,110	.....
Durable-goods establishments.....do....	3,570	3,640	3,790	3,500	3,780	.....
Nondurable-goods establishments.....do....	6,970	7,090	6,710	r6,560	7,330	.....

r/ Revised. p/ Preliminary. 1/ Goods to users, including raw foods and fuels. 2/ September 1956 figures are advance estimates.

ITEM	1955		1956			
	August	September	June	July	August	September
DOMESTIC TRADE - Continued						
Wholesale trade - Continued						
Inventories, estimated (unadjusted), total....mil. of dol..	11,870	12,180	12,370	r12,630	12,830	.....
Durable-goods establishments.....do....	5,970	6,000	6,710	6,590	6,530	.....
Nondurable-goods establishments.....do....	5,900	6,180	5,660	r6,040	6,300	.....
EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES						
Employees in nonagricultural establishments:						
Total, unadjusted (U. S. Department of Labor)...thousands..	50,484	50,992	51,709	r50,896	r51,884	p52,131
Manufacturing.....do....	16,820	16,919	16,809	r16,291	r17,037	p17,061
Mining.....do....	779	784	812	r746	r821	p818
Contract construction.....do....	3,088	3,094	3,257	r3,270	r3,354	p3,301
Transportation and public utilities.....do....	4,136	4,148	4,181	r4,148	r4,179	p4,188
Wholesale and retail trade.....do....	10,713	10,902	11,091	11,015	r11,042	p11,144
Finance, insurance, and real estate.....do....	2,265	2,248	2,320	r2,342	r2,350	p2,314
Service and miscellaneous.....do....	5,996	5,971	6,089	r6,137	r6,137	p6,104
Government.....do....	6,687	6,926	7,150	r6,947	r6,964	p7,201
Production workers in manufacturing industries:						
Total.....do....	13,264	13,365	13,078	r12,514	r13,250	p13,276
Durable-goods industries.....do....	7,554	7,612	7,602	r7,081	r7,555	p7,548
Ordnance and accessories.....do....	93	91	83	82	r79	p80
Lumber and wood products (except furniture).....do....	720	715	696	r688	r697	p687
Furniture and fixtures.....do....	316	323	311	304	r314	p319
Stone, clay, and glass products.....do....	475	482	484	473	r485	p478
Primary metal industries.....do....	1,097	1,118	1,118	r743	r1,103	p1,112
Fabricated metal products 1/.....do....	893	912	870	r825	r864	p873
Machinery (except electrical).....do....	1,166	1,162	1,278	r1,254	r1,259	p1,270
Electrical machinery.....do....	822	845	866	854	r875	p885
Transportation equipment.....do....	1,348	1,324	1,269	r1,250	r1,245	p1,200
Instruments and related products.....do....	225	227	231	r229	233	p235
Nondurable-goods industries.....do....	5,710	5,753	5,476	r5,433	r5,695	p5,728
Food and kindred products.....do....	1,259	1,255	1,104	r1,158	r1,270	p1,301
Tobacco manufactures.....do....	109	118	80	77	r101	p109
Textile-mill products.....do....	986	989	960	r922	r945	p942
Apparel and other finished textile products.....do....	1,087	1,100	1,049	1,020	r1,085	p1,078
Paper and allied products.....do....	460	463	466	r461	r470	p469
Printing, publishing, and allied products.....do....	527	537	549	r544	r550	p555
Chemicals and allied products.....do....	541	551	552	r544	r551	p553
Products of petroleum and coal.....do....	178	175	175	r170	176	p175
Rubber products.....do....	215	221	209	r208	r210	p215
Leather and leather products.....do....	349	344	334	r330	337	p331
Manufacturing production-worker indexes:						
Employment: Unadjusted.....1947-49=100..	107.2	108.1	105.7	r101.2	r107.1	p107.3
Adjusted.....do....	106.2	106.2	r106.3	r102.6	r106.1	p105.4
Payrolls, unadjusted.....do....	154.6	158.6	158.2	r151.0	r161.1	p164.2
Hours and earnings:						
Average weekly hours per worker, all manufacturing..hours..	40.6	40.9	r40.2	40.0	r40.2	p40.5
Durable-goods industries.....do....	41.1	41.5	40.8	40.6	r40.7	p41.1
Nondurable-goods industries.....do....	39.9	40.1	39.2	39.3	r39.5	p39.7
Average weekly earnings, all manufacturing.....dollars..	76.33	77.71	r79.19	78.80	r79.60	p81.00
Durable-goods industries.....do....	82.61	84.66	85.27	84.04	r85.47	p87.54
Nondurable-goods industries.....do....	67.83	68.97	70.95	71.53	r71.50	p72.25
Average hourly earnings, all manufacturing.....do....	1.88	1.90	1.97	1.97	1.98	p2.00
Durable-goods industries.....do....	2.01	2.04	2.09	2.07	2.10	p2.13
Nondurable-goods industries.....do....	1.70	1.72	1.81	1.82	1.81	p1.82

r/ Revised. p/ Preliminary. 1/ Except ordnance, machinery, and transportation equipment.

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